

Melissa Etheridge Is In a New Relationship with Best Friend

After a nasty split from wife Tammy Lynn Michaels last year, Melissa Etheridge has entered the dating world again – with her best friend. Etheridge began dating *Nurse Jackie* creator Linda Wallem three months after the breakup. A friend of the couple tells *People*, “Melissa and Linda have been best friends for over 10 years,” adding that Linda was “best man” at Melissa’s wedding to Tammy in 2003. The new couple, who share the same birthday and turn 50 in May, “are in a committed relationship. They’re happy,” says the pal.

Should you risk losing a friendship by taking it to the next level?

Cupid’s Advice:

If you’re feeling something more for your friend and want to take a risk, is it worth it? Cupid has some tips on how to know if you should take the jump:

1. Observe: Before actually asking your friend if he has feelings, too, and making things awkward, observe. Watch his interactions with other girls, and see if he treats you differently.

2. Ask yourself if you’re in love: Some confuse closeness and intimacy with love. Make sure you really have romantic feelings before you take the next big step. If you just think he’d make a good husband, but aren’t actually attracted to him, it might lead to heartbreak.

3. Think about the future: Not all couples are meant to last. Are you and your friend compatible romantically? If you don’t see the relationship lasting, it’s probably better to stay

friends.